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Remedial Implications in the Dramas of T.S. Eliot

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Remedial Implications in the Dramas of T.S. Eliot

Introduction :

T.S.Eliot (1888-1965)

Thomas Stearns Eliot has come to be known as one of the greatest poets who has influenced the course of modern poetry more than any other poet of the Twentieth Century.

Remedial Implication of drama has been chosen as the topic of my research dissertation, because T.S. Eliot is very powerful, analytical and potential mind as a creative writer in English. He has activated exceptionally extra-ordinary literary specters at Global level.

He is multi-dimensional personality. He is perceptible genius; creative writings of T.S. Eliot have therapeutic effect on the readers mind. He is a poet, a dramatist, a critic and an excellent prose writer. His contribution to modern literature is so great that at any level his influence can not be ignored.

T.S. Eliot through many essays and critical writings has given new thoughts like objective co-relative and impersonality of a poet. T.S. Eliot's basic approach is the disturbances in the life of modern man, it is because of casual attitude of man in respect of religion, morality and ethics. This indifferent attitude of modern man towards religion has landed man in a turmoil. He thinks that at no level man can ignore human values. Fast industrialization, process of urbanization and unwanted growth of intellect are the causes of modern man's suffering and sorrow.

T.S. Eliot not only describes the devastated and de-humanized conditions of modern man but he is capable to indicate remedial solutions to the problems. It was his belief that man's present predicament was the outcome of a gradual spiritual apathy and devaluation.

In his opinion religion has a significant role and T.S. Eliot has abiding faith in religion.

T.S. Eliot is a poet turned dramatist who “disciplines” his poetry to be needs of the stage. T.S. Eliot is today recognized as a great dramatic genius. He brought back the poetic drama into English literature. T.S. Eliot used drama as an instrument of socio-religious communications. In this respect his plays have restored the lost link between religion and drama. He has made the drama un-antiqued part of the contemporary tradition in art and literature.

T.S. Eliot felt that drama could make people comprehend reality better than any other form of literature, therefore, he feels that drama provides necessary training to the poet to be more beneficial, entertaining and useful socially.

T.S. Eliot has promoted the growth of poetic drama and his plays are experimental and exploratory, all his dramas focus on the disturbed relationship of the members of family. They display the reason of discarded and disharmonious life style of modern man. It is because of multiple negative forces like urbanization, fast industrialization over growth of modern technique of providing excessive comforts and above all infinite greed of man for possessing material prosperity by any means.

All his dramas are written in poetry form, his first poetic drama appeared in 1935 under the title *Murder in the Cathedral.*

T.S. Eliot wrote *Murder in the Cathedral* as a presentation of Canterbury Festival of all his plays *Murder in the Cathedral* is the most successful plays, on account of the fact that, it contains the best poetry and the most coherent drama.

T.S. Eliot’s drama *Murder in the Cathedral* is a historical play and it deals with the assassination of Arch Bishop-Thomas Becket of Canterbury at destination of King Henry II, in December 1170. T.S. Eliot makes use of chorus. This technique has been taken from Greek dramatics, the role of chorus in his dramas is very central and significant because chorus not only sing a song but also indicate indirectly, coming danger and events. This drama is based on the conflict between the King Henry II and The Arch Bishop.

Aims & Objectives :

The aim of this research is to focus on so great a writer, dramatist, critic and a prose writer and a man of ranking merit. T.S. Eliot whose creative writing in the form of literary genres has altered the global attitude of people. His poetry and dramas are potential with meanings. He has written on the relevant topics concerned with existing human situations and it is the need of the hour to study T.S. Eliot's literary works because through his works that we can smell the fragrance of the wisdom of mighty minds. It is the message of Sages & Saints alone can make human life happy and safe, otherwise all Satanic forces are a play to destroy human existence and devour entire globe.

In such a situation T.S. Eliot's creative writing can help mankind to understand the coming danger. Moreover, his creative works have healing power in a wider sense. Therefore, the aim of this research is to unearth the treasure of gems and jewels of super human thoughts. T.S. Eliot's poetry and dramas have pin pointed the disease of modern man. It is in the form of isolation, alienation, frustration, greed and fascination for tremendous worldly power and infinite wealth.

Scope & Limitations :

T.S. Eliot is a versatile genius and he has been acclaimed as a very great literary giant of our time, whose writing has a magical power on the minds of the readers that, after reading his works, the reader gets transported into the world of deep meditative mood of perfect realization about the meaning of human existence. So such study within which an attempt has been made to go deeper and deeper in search of hidden meaning of T.S. Eliot's dramas. Such a study will surely help readers community to be benefited by this experience. The limitations of this research work is that T.S. Eliot being a great scholar, can not easily be understood that there are hurdles of references of historical background and to explore in his writing meaning through symbols, imagery and etymological meanings.

Review of Literature :

T.S. Eliot has been recognized as a towering personality in the filed of literature and therefore it goes without saying that he has at his credit huge literary production. T.S. Eliot's writing period covers over forty five years. During this long period he wrote poems, plays, literary and social essays and he worked as a journalist and editor. His writing may be studied under three heads of poetry : dramas, prose and literary criticism.

T.S. Eliot's dramatic writing includes :

1. *The Rock a Pageant Play, 1934.*
2. *Murder in the Cathedral, 1935.*
3. *The Family Re-union, 1939.*
4. *The Cocktail Party, 1950.*
5. *The Confidential Clerk, 1959.*
6. *The Elder Statesman, 1959.*

In respect of prose T.S. Eliot's prose has helped greatly in clarifying many concepts. His prose work is in no degree of less importance. His prose works are largely in the form of articles and essays, in numerous periodicals and Journals of the day. The are as under :

I. *The use of poetry and the use of criticism, 1933.*

II. *The idea of a Christian Society, 1939.*

III. *Notes towards a Definition of Culture, 1948.*

IV. *Selected essays, Third edition, 1951.*

V. *Poetry and Poets, 1957.*

VI. *To Criticize the Crime, 1965*

Hypothesis :

T.S. Eliot occupies apex position in global literary scenario. T.S. Eliot makes use of classical literary works in his writings, Greek myth and legends as the stuff of his writing. In this research and attempt will be made to focus light on all these aspects of this dramas.

Modern man is leading tormented, fragmented and fractured life from within. Eliot's writings express anguish and agonies of modern man. It is therefore T.S. Eliot's place in modern literature differs from his contemporaries. He belongs to both the British and the American traditions. But Eliot was more of the American than of the British tradition. This is the reason that he unfailingly feels the throbbing pulse of the homelessness of the American people. In this respect he very realistically sees the deeline of the tradition. The resultant the Americans felt cut off and isolated from the mainstream society.

Eliot laments this loss of inheritance. This is expressed in the usage of "a heap of broken images." Eliot more specifically in his poetry talks of 'A cross cultural perspective' due to the amalgamation of diverse identities resulting in the assimilation of identities. This is the modern phenomena and it is the most sensitive and delicate issue related to the problematic social structure of modern human society.

In the same way his prose writing shows marvelous issues relevant to human situations Eliots extraordinary mastery on the English language, his amazing imagination and very skilful use of individual words show his intellectual capacity and amazing prophetie vision. Therefore it is the pressing need of the day to study Eliot's literary creations and to learn in humane manners how to behave humanly.

Research Methodology :

Research Methodology of this research work will be based upon library reference, close reading of texts and critical analysis of the dramas. Primary and Secondary sources will be taken into consideration for clear understanding of the themes of his plays. The methodology to be adopted for the research work will be

analytical, descriptive, explanatory and interpretative. For this purpose the latest academic recourses like internet, email, and IT will be most adequately used.

Implication :

This research work will prove of great benefit for initialing reading of Eliot's dramas and this will help readers in awakening and igniting dormant interest in his literary works. It will raise the academic standard and comprehension along with enjoyment. The aim of researcher is to unearth the treasure of Gems and Jewels of Eliot's thoughts because Eliot's writing has widened the horizon of human understanding.

Chapter Scheme :

Chapter-I

Introduction :

The first chapter will focus light on brief introduction of his writing and a general survey of English drama in twentieth century.

Chapter-II

Murder in the Cathedral is a drama which has achieved grand success due to its verse and theme. Its theme is the concept of martyrdom. It also shows the inner conflict of Thomas Becket who gives his life for the cause of truth. He does not yield to any temptation. He establishes real model of following Christ's path. In the drama *Murder in the Cathedral* the clash between political power indicated by the powerful king and religious power shown by the Arch Bishop, Thomas Becket, this continues till the Arch Bishop sacrifices his life but in the drama Eliot shows the dilemma of Arch Bishop when the tempters come to test his Mettle. Eliot suggests that real priest can be that who dies without hoping any reward. He gives suggestions that even the least selfishness shouldn't pollute the piety of sacrifice of dying for right reason. The best example here is that of Jesus Christ who sacrificed his life for the suffering of entire humanity.

So, here *Remedial Implication* in the drama is that of sacrifice. In present times / days sense of sacrifice has been degenerated.

Chapter-III

The Family Re-union and *The Cocktail Party* are the dramas of familial disharmony among the members of the family and its resultant is the disintegration of family and then Family Re-union with multiple factors will be in detail analyzed. '*The family Re-union*' is about the disintegration in the family of Tom, who disappears from the house due to selfish motives of the members of family and excessive domination of his mother Amy. He returns back after a long period to join his (Mother's) family and celebrate the occasion of *The Family Re-union*. But things take strange turn and nothing of the sort happens. There is great suspense in the absence of Tom's wife and her death. Tom's brothers and uncles gathered. Tom's mother is very sick she feels all the while very cold and all are waiting for the youngest brother of Tom to come but it is reported that he died in an accident. He was a rash driving boy. Tom's mother Amy gets a shock and dies. Now the gathering becomes gloomy in a surprising manner. T.S. Eliot calls this gathering ironically as *The family Re-union*. Tom leaves the house declaring that he is going on a long journey and assures his all the gathered guests and leaves the gathering with a view to helping and serving the people. Tom goes on a Christian mission.

Remedial Implication is that men must learn significance of sacrifice and one must be ready to spend his life serving humanity.

Chapter-IV

The Cocktail Party with its problems of identity crisis of the protagonist Edward Chamberlayne and his wife Lavinia living loveless married life and further studies of family will be both in focus. It is the best example of Comedy of manners. This drama shows lack of understanding and absence of love between Edward Chamberlayne and Lavinia. The focus of the drama is on the diversion among married couples. The theme of the drama is that relation between husband and wife should be sanctified.

The Cocktail Party which is about absence of love between the partners. The main protagonist Edward Chamberlayne and Lavinia lead loveless life. The unidentified guest *one eyed Riley* and Julia these *guardians* help greatly in restoring disturbed life of Edward and Lavinia. This happens due to diversions in the life of the couple.

The *Remedial implication* in the drama is that married life must be lived with loyalty, honesty and mutual trust. Marriage is a pious bond, therefore extra – martial relations are condemned.

One eyed Riley and Julia these are Christian brother and sister who help others to lead happy life. They indicate that serving others is the mission of Christianity.

The message is that there must be men and women giving their own life for the welfare and happiness of others. It is a grand sacrifice.

Chapter-V

The Confidential Clerk published in 1953. It is another pessimistic play. It does not have an imposing theme. It deals with the choice of one's care. Sir Claude Mulhammer wanted to be a potter. He appointed his son Colby as his Confidential Clerk but the young body does not want to be clerk. He becomes a Church Organist and takes the profession of musician. The dramatist praises him for his choice. This is the most autobiographical of Eliot's brick manufacturing business and that of the literary ambitions.

The Elder Statesman describes a Statesman in his retired life. He had been a distinguished Statesman in his day. But now he is on his death bed. He sees for the first time the reflection of this true self as one who had avoided reality and was guilty of moral cowardice. His guilt appears in the form of two blackmailers whom he had wronged. His engagement book today is empty. In the play we find a clear co-ordination of meaning and form. This is Eliot's last dramatic utterance.

It seems singularly appropriate as the final statement. It tells about the end of the elderly statesman Lord Calverton and we are reminded of Eliot's recent re-

marriage in the love of Monica and Charles. The play is a study in the contrast between man's private world and the public life he leads – Lord Calverton is the best example of Comedy of manners.

'The Elder Statesman' is Eliot's last drama and it is very effective in its dramatic and emotional appeal. This drama describes a statesman in his retired life who is lying on his death bed. The Elder Statesman - Lord Calverton is described in a very pathetic condition. He led a prosperous life but in the last part of life he faces pathetic conditions. He had also been cheated.

The worst part of the drama is that he bears the brunt of life due to the vagabondism and reckless, careless life style of his son, who is extremely self-centered and selfish. In the drama, he exchanges rough dialogue with his father and behaves unfairly with Lord Calverton.

Remedial Implication in this drama is the generational gap between parents and children.

Conclusion :

Every drama of Eliot will be thoroughly studied with a view to reaching the correct perspective and spirit of the text in the light of themes which have been handled in the concerned dramas. An attempt will be made in the light of their titles through the description in the dramas very adequately to interpret the situation and the inter-action of characters in the given context. The dramas will focus upon various remedial implications to find their relevance to the present situations The dramas present situations – psychological, religions, familial, personal in relation to the impact of inevitable forces of destiny.

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